

**Shelby County Fire Department
Headquarters
1075 Mullins Station Rd. Bldg. "C", 2nd floor
Memphis, TN 38134**



******* NEWS RELEASE *******

Release Date: July 18th, 2013

An overnight residential home fire early this morning resulted in significant damage to a home in the 4800 block of Bloomfield near Shelby and Forest Hill-Irene Roads in un-incorporated southeast Shelby County. Just before 03:00AM, Shelby County Fire Department dispatchers received multiple calls from several neighbors all who were reporting that flames and heavy smoke were coming from the 2,040 sq. ft. home. A "full assignment" response was initiated, sending multiple engine companies from three fire departments to the scene. The responding agencies were Shelby County, Germantown and Memphis Fire Departments.

The first engine company to arrive reported heavy smoke banking from the rear of the home with fire showing through that portion of the roof. As the initial attack on the fire ensued, a consequent search for anyone within the home was also underway. Additional fire-fighting equipment and personnel continued to arrive and at the height of the operation, some 24 fire fighters were working the fire ground.

Initial estimates are that the fire had been burning for an undetermined length of time well before being noticed and called in, resulting in firefighters having to be very aggressive in their attempts to bring the blaze under control. The progress of the fire was stopped in just under thirty minutes and an investigation into the cause of the fire began immediately. No one was home at the time of the fire. Also there were no injuries to civilians or fire personnel on this scene.

As of this release, the cause remains under investigation. Also as of this time the home is not considered to be a total loss and possibly can be re-built.

Prompt calls to 9-1-1 are of paramount importance when fighting fire. The Shelby County Fire Department issues the reminder that after a fire has been burning for an average of seven minutes – every minute after that, the size of the fire will likely double. Functioning smoke detectors also are responsible for more than doubling your chance of getting out a home fire alive.

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